

REMARKS

Entry of this amendment and reconsideration of the present application, as amended, are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 5-10, 14-20, 22, 24-28, 30 and 32-38 and new claims 41-50 are pending in this application, claims 2-4, 11-13, 21, 23, 29, 31, 39 and 40 having been canceled.

Claims 1-3, 7-12, 16-22, 24, 25, 28-30, 32, 33, and 36-40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kaji et al. in view of White et al.

Claims 4-6, 13-15, 23, 26, 27, 31, 34 and 35 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Without addressing the validity of the rejection and reserving the right to do so in connection with further prosecution of the invention set forth in the previously pending claims, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of allowable claim 4 (and intervening claim 2), independent claim 10 has been amended to include the subject matter of allowable claim 13 (and intervening claim 11), independent claim 20 has been amended to include the subject matter of allowable claim 23 (and intervening claim 21), and independent claim 28 has been amended to include the subject matter of allowable claim 31. Claims 5, 7, 8, 14, 16, 17, 22, 24-26, 30 and 32-34 have been amended in view of the changes to the independent claims.

In view of the inclusion of allowable subject matter in independent claims 1, 10, 20 and 28, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's rejection of previous claims 1-3, 7-12, 16-22, 24, 25, 28-30, 32, 33, and 36-40 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kaji et al. in view of White et al. has been overcome and should be removed.

New claims 41-50 are added, of which claims 41, 44 and 47-50 are independent claims. Claim 41 constitutes previous claim 5 rewritten in independent form. Claim 44 constitutes previous claim 14 rewritten in independent form. Claim 47 constitutes previous claim 26 rewritten in independent form. Claim 48 constitutes previous claim 27 rewritten in independent form. Claim 49 constitutes previous claim 34 rewritten in independent form. Claim 50 constitutes previous claim 35 rewritten in independent form. In view of the Examiner's indication of allowability of claims 5, 14, 26, 27, 34 and 35, claims 41-50 should be allowable over the prior art of record.

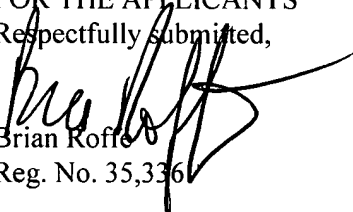
If the Examiner should determine that minor changes to the claims to obviate informalities are necessary to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned to discuss the same.

Four extra independent claims in excess of three are presented. The extra claims fee of \$336 should be charged to Deposit Account No 50-0266.

An early and favorable action on the merits upon entry and consideration of this amendment is earnestly solicited.

FOR THE APPLICANTS

Respectfully submitted,


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